

BEWARE THE SPOTTER

A Most Disagreeable System of Spying

ON THE SANTA FE OFFICIALS.

It is Said Has Been Established by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Considerable ill-feeling has been engendered among the highest officers of the Santa Fe because alleged "spotters" are being employed by the interstate commerce commission to secure evidence in violation of the rules regarding the payment of rebates to shippers. The spotter is said to be employed by John G. Taylor, special agent of the interstate commerce commission at Chicago. The spotter is said to be J. A. Owenby. The officers say that while they are willing to have their affairs investigated they protest against the employment of spotters to try and induce them to violate the law.

Owenby has been traveling over the Santa Fe on passes which he obtained by unknown means, and has turned up at various points in the west and purported to be the agent for the receivers of the Santa Fe. His mission, he said, was to look into the feasibility of an extension from the Santa Fe to the coast. He visited prominent cattle raisers and shippers in that section of the country, and his evident desire appeared to be to secure evidence of violation of the interstate commerce law against Santa Fe officials and others. From a private letter received it appears Owenby is still traveling in Texas, pretending to make an investigation of the physical condition of the road in that part of the country for the receivers. The people there evidently got onto him, as will be seen by the following abstract from the letter just mentioned:

"It is certainly no wonder the great American people have risen up in arms and rebuke a government that will allow such disreputable practices as indicated by Mr. Owenby's action. If the government proposes to employ agents to induce railroads to violate the laws, I think it is time such an administration was 'put down upon.' I hardly think any man of respectability would employ another to work under such disreputable plans. Of course, the commission may not know that Mr. Taylor is employing any such people, but I think it should be a matter of the fact. It is most unfortunate for Judas Iscariot that Taylor did not live in his time or we would probably never have heard of Judas, except as a bright and shining light, and exemplary disciple."

The railroad man of the Chicago Tribune also knows something about Owenby, and he says regarding him: "About two weeks ago the Tribune referred to one J. A. Owenby, who called upon managers and traffic officials of western roads and claimed to some he was a Texas cattle shipper and to others a tourist agent. He wanted rebates and cut rates, saying he had favorable offers from some of the roads. The roads could readily see the man was not what he pretended to be and surmised he was an agent of the interstate commerce commission who desired to catch them napping, and consequently none of them fell into the trap. It is subsequently transpired that while the man was not engaged directly by the interstate commerce commission he was employed by Special Agent John G. Taylor, of the interstate commerce commission, who secured the indictment by the federal grand jury of President Reinhart and Traffic Manager Hanley, of the Santa Fe, and several prominent shippers. Special Agent Taylor was formerly general live-stock agent of the Santa Fe and was discharged by Reinhart and Hanley and his action, it is claimed, was had in a spirit of revenge. All the alleged offenses for which the Santa Fe officials were indicted occurred when Taylor was in the employ of the road and he himself paid the rebates to shippers. To create an impression of fairness, it is claimed, Taylor became anxious to work up some cases of violation of the interstate commerce law that occurred since the Santa Fe was in the hands of receivers and also against officials of other western roads, and in order to do that he hired the man Owenby."

It appears this man Owenby is quite a character, who a few years ago gained an uneenviable and wide reputation by putting up the "silver pool job," which was investigated at the second session of the Fifty-first congress. The investigation showed him to be the champion provocateur of the age, and his work in this city and elsewhere during the last four weeks sustains his reputation in that respect.

JUDGES OF ORATORY.

The Men Who will Decide the Result of the State Contest.

The following gentlemen have been selected as judges in the state oratorical contest: On thought and composition, Judge Stillwell, Erie; Judge J. D. McClevery, Ft. Scott; T. D. Dewey, Abilene. Alternates, Prof. Olin, Manhattan; Superintendent Richardson, Wichita; Dr. F. E. Vassar, Kansas City, Mo.; J. C. Gray, Abilene; Judge Thompson, Burlingame; J. O. Pickering, Omaha.

On delivery, El Hoch, Marion; Rev. Chas. Mitchell, Kansas City, Mo.; Judge J. Howard, Alternates, Major William Warner, Kansas City, Mo.; Senator J. A. Householder, Columbia; Justice Herrick, Wellington; Rev. J. R. Richardson, Hialeah; Prof. C. A. Glutz, Atchison. Special alternates on delivery, Bishop Vincent, Gen. J. C. Caldwell, Maj. J. K. Hudson, Chief Justice Horton, Associate Justice Allen, John McDonald.

ALL FOR COLONEL HUGHES

The Republican Plambeau Club Endorses Him for Adjutant General.

Col. J. W. F. Hughes was endorsed for the appointment of adjutant general by the Republican Plambeau club at the court house Saturday night.

The secretary was instructed to notify Governor-elect Morrill of the club's action.

It having been decided to keep up the organization, a committee was appointed to secure permanent quarters and a second committee to revise the constitution. Another meeting will be held at the court house Saturday, December 8.

Corrigan Answers Father Ducey. New York, Nov. 26.—Archbishop Corrigan has answered Father Ducey's recent letter. Archbishop Corrigan's answer was in Father Ducey's hands this morning. The pastor said that it was of a distinctly mild and courteous character. More than this Father Ducey could not say. The archbishop had prefixed the word "private" to his communication.

TOPEKA'S SYRIAN COLONY.

Many People From Far-off Damascus Living in This City.

It is not generally known, but it is a fact that Topeka has a Syrian colony within her borders. Located at 435 and 407 Crane street, are two story and a half houses in which our Syrian colonists reside and which they call home.

This colony consists of ten men and children, the exact number of which could not easily be learned, as they are reticent about talking to strangers.

However, one of the women of the colony, who has been living in America about three years and can talk a little English, gave a *JOURNAL* reporter a few facts about their mode of living. The colony which now numbers almost forty souls was started three years ago when one family landed in New York and started westward. Since they have been in Topeka there have been several additions from their eastern home which was the city of Damascus, reputed to be the oldest city in the world.

The Syrian women said they came to America to live because they could make more money here than at home.

The men, said one of them to a reporter, are merchants and she then explained that they are the peddlers who sell shawls, rugs and bric a brac from home to home in this city.

They do not confine their business operations to Topeka, but travel all over the state. Their trips are generally planned so that they can all get home to stay over Sunday. All the women who do not have small children also sell goods and are peddlers of small articles.

They say it costs them no more to live in Topeka than it did in Damascus, but they make their money easier.

The latest addition to the colony is a young man arrived only three weeks ago; he has not yet learned enough of our language to be able to start out as a peddler, but he expects to be a full fledged "merchant" in a very short time.

The young women and the children of the colony are rather good looking, although their skins are dark and much resemble the Italians or Greeks.

When asked if she ever expected to go back to Damascus, the woman with whom the *JOURNAL* reporter talked, shook her head and said: "Not much; I don't know. Not much."

UNIQUE RASCALITY.

He Robbed Her of Her Last Cent but She Would Not Prosecute.

A widow about whom there is a rather peculiar story was Saturday sent by some of the charitable people of Topeka to her former home and the home of relatives in Iowa.

She had been a poor woman and lived with her several small children in a small house. One day she came rather unexpectedly into possession of \$150. It was a fortune to her and she made up her mind to save it.

She has been doing mending for a man who had a good position, and in her happiness she told her good fortune. He was glad with her and called off her dog. Their friendship extended and finally he proposed marriage to her and was accepted.

The wedding day was drawing near. The money would not be safe in the house, he said. He would take it. She let him have it.

The wedding day arrived, but it brought no minister and no bridegroom. The poor woman was left penniless, but loved the fellow still and would not prosecute.

Funny about a woman, isn't it?

WAS IT TELEPATHY?

An Unusual Incident in Connection With the Death of a Topeka Lady.

There was a remarkable incident in connection with the death of Mrs. R. G. Martin who died last week at 814 West Sixth street. One of her sons, Louis Martin, is now living in Burlington, Iowa, and on the night of his mother's death he was extremely restless. In the night he awoke with a start and says he was sure something was wrong at home. He became convinced that his mother was dead, although he had not heard of her death and had no reason to think so. With the aid of a match he looked at his watch and saw it was a few minutes after 2:30 a. m. He did not sleep any more that night. The next morning he received a telegram which announced that his mother died at 2:30 that morning. The incident made a great impression on Louis Martin and those of his friends who have heard of it.

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READ.

Take Elevator to Second Floor and See What We are Doing in Our Carpet and Curtain Department.

Curtains.

The largest curtain sale that has ever taken place in Topeka. Profit cuts no figure in this sale.

It is your opportunity to buy Curtains this week.

Nottingham

Curtains.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| \$.75 pair Selling now for | \$.64 pair |
| 1.10 " " " | .78 pair |
| 1.35 " " " | .87 pair |
| 2.00 " " " | 1.03 pair |
| 2.50 " " " | 1.42 pair |
| 2.85 " " " | 1.83 pair |
| 3.00 " " " | 2.15 pair |
| 3.50 " " " | 2.07 pair |
| 4.00 " " " | 2.64 pair |
| 4.50 " " " | 2.93 pair |
| 5.00 " " " | 3.27 pair |
| | 3.68 pair |

Ruffled Muslin

Curtains.

Something entirely new and very stylish. \$2.00 pair Selling now for \$1.45 pair

| | |
|------------|------------|
| 2.50 " " " | 1.75 " " " |
| 3.50 " " " | 2.50 " " " |

Tambour'd

Curtains.

\$4.50 pair Selling now for \$3.17 pair

| | |
|------------|------------|
| 5.00 " " " | 3.72 " " " |
| 5.50 " " " | 4.09 " " " |
| 5.75 " " " | 4.47 " " " |
| 6.50 " " " | 4.87 " " " |

Irish Point

Curtains.

\$3.85 pair Selling now for \$3.17 pair

| | |
|------------|------------|
| 4.50 " " " | 3.42 " " " |
| 4.75 " " " | 3.72 " " " |
| 5.25 " " " | 3.98 " " " |
| 5.50 " " " | 4.19 " " " |
| 6.25 " " " | 4.81 " " " |

We will give away 1,000 tickets for the Wilber Co., who will give two performances at the Grand Opera, House, Friday and Saturday evenings, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. These tickets are worth 50c. A \$2 purchase will entitle you to a ticket.

SNAP SHOTS AT HOME NEWS.

There is a baker in Topeka who is "after the dough."

Jim McCabe's boom for city engineer needs a chapman.

A horse-show has been suggested for the benefit of Ingleside.

John Ritchie has completed the sidewalk under his contract.

The beautiful Topeka weather made congregations large yesterday.

Many fish in the streams about Topeka are dying. The water is stagnant.

Feb. 24 has been named as the date for holding the state oratorical contest.

R. J. Sloan, who is now a statesman out of a job, is visiting a brother in St. Louis.

The city schools will dismiss Wednesday evening for Thanksgiving holidays.

Topeka's bank clearances last week were \$934,929, an increase of 33 per cent.

W. A. S. Bird instituted a new tribe of the Order of Red Men at Burlingame last week.

"I got 99 in grammar, but that ain't no sign I'll pass," said a Harrison school boy today.

Miss Florence Packard has succeeded George W. Berry as teacher of the Pauline schools.

Wm. Neale, late general foreman of the Santa Fe shops, will move to his farm in the spring, Ia la.

The greater number of farmers now have to haul water for house use. The wells have gone dry.

Mrs. Rosa Burns has returned from Boston and will spend the winter here. She is at the Copeland.

Judge Hazen decided Saturday night not to dissolve the attachment against Dr. Burkett's drug stock.

L. Mathews, Santa Fe station agent at Havana, and R. B. Prather, agent at Vilas, have dated stations.

Calla division uniform rank Knights of Pythias will give its first ball of the season Wednesday evening.

United States Commissioner E. L. Wagner says he has not made a cent out of his office for over six months.

Councilman Fellows says there is no truth in the rumor that he has decided to become a candidate for mayor.

Mrs. George Wilmarth and her mother, Mrs. Starkey, have returned from Boston where they have been visiting this summer.

Miss Belle Bennett, who was principal of Euclid school last year, is now teacher of English in a seminary in Cape Colony, Africa.

Undersheriff Tom Wilkerson has been chasing between St. Joe and Trinidad more than a week hunting for Topeka bicycle thieves.

A North Topeka girl says she doesn't understand how life is so high living to a man whose moustache is so big he can't eat frosted lemon pie.

At the meeting of the Saturday Night club Saturday evening at Justice Ferry's office, Frank H. Foster read a paper on Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Mr. Thanksgiving Turkey, who has

READ.

Ingrain Department on Same Floor.

We have three flyers; 25 patterns to select from in this department. If you want something for nearly nothing—don't wait too long.

Our regular 45c Ingrain for 30c a yard.

Our regular 48c Ingrain for 36c a yard.

Our regular 55c and 60c all wool for 48c.

We are showing a handsome line of Ingrain Art Squares in all sizes.

Couch Covers

\$1.88 Each.

We have reduced the price of several pieces of our Curtain Muslin by the yard—in narrow and wide widths.

STEVENSON & CO..

717-719 Kansas Avenue.

Antique Lace

Curtains.

\$4.25 pair Selling now for \$2.89 pair

| | |
|------------|------------|
| 5.75 " " " | 4.10 " " " |
|------------|------------|

Brussels Curtains.

\$7.50 pair Selling now for \$6.50 pair

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 10.00 " " " | 7.38 " " " |
| 10.50 " " " | 7.97 " " " |
| 11.00 " " " | 8.57 " " " |
| 15.00 " " " | 10.98 " " " |
| 18.00 " " " | 13.47 " " " |
| 25.00 " " " | 18.32 " " " |

Figured China Silk 75c, 90c and \$1 a yard.

Cretonne, in beautiful designs, 12c and 15c a yard.

Silkolene, plain and figured, 10c and 15c a yard.

Jute, for furniture covering, 50c and up.

Rug Fringe only 12c a yard.

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READ.

Visit Our Dress Goods Department in the Rear of South Aisle.

Covert Cloth (English make), 54 inches wide, 8 colors. This week only 79c a yard.

15 colors of Twillback French Broadcloth, 54 ins. wide. This week 89c.

17 French

Pattern Suits.

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 2 suits at \$12.25 | Your Choice Of the Lot for \$9.89 SUIT. |
| 2 suits at 13.25 | |
| 2 suits at 18.00 | |
| 2 suits at 21.00 | |
| 1 suit at 16.00 | |
| 1 suit at 12.75 | |
| 2 suits at 14.00 | |
| 3 suits at 11.35 | |
| 1 suit at 10.25 | |

2 suits at \$12.25

2 suits at 13.25